

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action of November 10, 2003. Allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Withdrawal of Final Objection Requested.

Applicants hereby request that the examiner withdraw the final rejection that was issued in this case and make the Office Action a non-final rejection. This request will be rendered moot if the application is allowed.

The reason for the request for the non-final rejection is to give applicants an opportunity to respond to the examiner's claim objections which were raised for the first time in the instant Office Action.

For example, an objection was made to claim 9 even though claim 9 was an original claim and dependent from claim 8 which had been previously presented.

Further comments.

The examiner has objected to claims 9-15, 17, 18, 20, 24-30, 35, 36, 39-41, and 43 on the basis of certain informalities. These objections are respectfully traversed. However, it is believed that applicants have addressed each of these objections in the amendment to the claims.

Claims 9, 39, 40, and 24 have been clarified.

With respect to the changes to claims 10 and 25, the examiner has referred to, for example, page 11 of applicants' specification regarding the term "N."

With respect to claims 12-15 and 27-30, the examiner is referred to, for example, pages 19 et seq of the specification for an example of a discussion of "do not care." The phrase "do not care" does not refer to a state but simply references the fact that one does not care what the value is for the particular state which is put in the "do not care" category. Also, a typographical error

(changing O to 0) has been corrected in claims 12 and 26. In addition, the changes made in the description of Fset and Frst in claims 15 and 30 were made to conform to the description in the specification (e.g., see page 24 beginning at line 5).

The extra space has been deleted from claim 14 between lines 5 and 6 of this claim.

Claim 35 provides a reference to QQ+.

With respect to claim 30, the acronym “HDL” was previously defined in its parent claim, claim 16, but has been repeated in claim 30. In addition, the word “connectivity” has been changed to “conversion” in both claims 15 and 30 for consistency with their respective parent claims.

Claim 43 has been amended to specify that the circuit element has reachable states to provide the foundation for the reference in the claim to the phrase “next reachable state.”

Claim 41 has been amended to address the issues raised by the examiner. The examiner is referred to, for example, page 16 of the specification.

Finally, the word “having” has been added to claims 17, 18, and 20 and does not change the scope of these claims. In claim 20, the additional act of “performing a reachability analysis on a conversion matrix” has been added to this claim.

It is submitted that the changes to claims 9, 10, 12-14, 15, 17, 18, 24, 25, 27-30, 35, 39 and 43 do not change the scope of these claims.

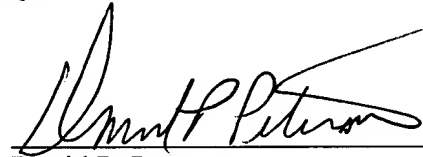
Conclusion

The Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are in condition for allowance. An early notice to that effect is respectfully requested. Should any matters remain, the Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned, in accordance with MPEP 713.01.

Respectfully submitted,

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